

Part Three

REDISTRIBUTIVE IMPACT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

(Summary)

Social services and redistributive functions are an object of analysis and evaluation in Part Three.

Various controversies concerning participation of the State in outlays on the social sphere are presented here. Arguments for and against participation of the State in social services are provided. Two opposing values clash here: the liberal trend and the interventionary tend. The deliberations end with the presentation of the principle of mutual advantages for the State and the society resulting from social services.

A comprehensive analysis of the role played by social services in the social income structure in the period of systemic transformation was carried out on the basis of the Polish data provided by public statements and research.

More attention was focussed on the redistributive impact of social services in the context of the subsistence minimum including the mechanism and the share of social services in the redistribution of income, changes in the level and structure of household incomes, which revealed a decline of wages and social services accompanied by price increases.

A separate subject discussed here is the context between the lowest wage and the subsistence minimum, and the role of minimal social benefits in the redistribution of incomes.

The last chapter deals with socio-economic functions of unemployment benefits in the light of practical solutions, i.e. their income and motivational functions.